

seen, but none caught; they were often observed to make very high though clumsy leaps, a feat not often I believe practised by flat fish. A fish of considerable size, from twelve to twenty lbs. weight apparently, and in form resembling the salmon, was frequently seen of an evening performing very astonishing leaps. They were always quite perpendicular, and therefore appeared as a gambol, more than an effort to take prey, and sometimes extended to a height of thirty feet.

Of shell-fish we found craw-fish and prawns, the latter of great size and very delicious; they are limited to the creeks of the east side of the island, where also the one in the neighbourhood of the Meug-breng village possesses truly fine oysters. They are large, but of a flavour as delicate as our own Colchester luxury: it may be lamented that they are not more generally known, and attempts made to grow them elsewhere. They have been transported to Kyouk Phyoo, and do well there.

Turtle are common, and are taken by the natives on the sand-islands and bays. They are of large size and of good species, but I can make no mention of their quality as food.

Many beautiful and valuable species of shells are to be found on the flats off the North Point of the island, where however but little leisure or opportunity of dredging for them was afforded.

Of wild birds, the Sarus [*Larus?*] is perhaps the largest on the island, and is plentiful. They are common in other parts of India, and are, I believe, good eating. There are a great many varieties of the crane, some of very beautiful plumage and great size. These constitute the greatest portion of the feathered inhabitants, and would supply perhaps some new and valuable varieties, if not species: doves are very numerous; a small green parrot is found, and some few green pigeons were seen. But in general, other than have been mentioned, the birds are of those species most commonly met with in these climates. The jungles are, however, scantily peopled, though I may not omit to notice one which, with its sweet and soft note late in the evening, often gratified us, and was deemed not an unworthy brother-songster of the nightingale.

NIGER EXPEDITION:—DR. VOGEL.

Our readers will rejoice to learn that Dr. Vogel, Mr. Fraser, and Dr. Stanger are not among the victims of the fatal Niger expedition. Dr. Vogel has recovered from an attack of fever, and will remain for a time at Fernando Po, for the purpose of botanical investigation.

BIBLIOGRAPHICAL NOTICES.

On the Structure of the Cyst-worm. By George Gulliver, F.R.S.
(*Medico-Chir. Trans.*, vol. xxiv.)

IN this memoir, after remarking the great importance of the Cyst-worm as one of the very few parasites that infest the muscular fibre of man, as well as that of animals used by him as food, the author proceeds to describe many points in the anatomy of the Entozoon

which he believes have hitherto been either imperfectly elucidated or altogether neglected.

The neck or true body of the worm is thickly studded with oval corpuscles, the average long diameter of which is $\frac{1}{1552}$ nd of an inch, and the short diameter $\frac{1}{2030}$ th. These corpuscles are composed of a shell of carbonate of lime inclosing an internal granular matter. Mr. Gulliver thinks it probable that they are the ova of the worm. They are almost exclusively confined to the body, not one of them being found in the caudal vesicle; but the tissue of the latter is throughout pervaded by oil-like spherules.

In a description of the configuration and arrangement of the hooklets, the author shows that the two sets, though alike in form, are quite distinct in size, and arranged alternately; and that each claw has a blunt lateral process, which has been mistaken for an ovum; and this process, when seen foreshortened, has the appearance of an oval body distinct from the claw.

The paper is illustrated by several figures, exhibiting the form and structure of the corpuscles supposed to be the ova, of the tentacles, as well as of body, caudal vesicle and cyst of the *Cysticercus*, from the omentum of the Mexican deer.

Genera Plantarum secundum Ordines Naturales disposita, auctore Stephano Endlicher, 1836—1840.

A work to which reference could be made with almost a certainty of finding the complete characters of any genus of plants has long been a desideratum with botanists, and from the labour, not to say knowledge, requisite for the production of such a book, many of them have almost despaired of its ever appearing. We feel therefore peculiar pleasure in congratulating botanists in general, and more particularly Prof. Endlicher, on the completion of the above gigantic undertaking, the earlier portions of which have been long enough in our hands to give us practical experience of its usefulness. This book is closely printed in very large 8vo, consisting of 1483 pages, and containing nearly 7000 genera, and is so arranged as to form either one or two volumes at the pleasure of its possessor. A collection into one place of the descriptions given by the first observers of the several genera would have constituted a valuable work; but here we find the characters of each genus in an order reduced to the same form so as to contrast with each other, and thus point out in a peculiarly satisfactory manner the distinctions of each genus from every other. This is a point far too much neglected by botanists in the description of species as well as genera, and we are therefore rejoiced to find that it has been so carefully attended to in the work before us.

The author states that it is his intention to publish supplements, containing corrections and additions, as often as a sufficient quantity have been collected, and expresses a hope that all botanists will communicate to him such new genera as they may describe, or errors which they detect. We have no doubt that this very reasonable request will be most cheerfully complied with, and that thus we shall

have the advantage of possessing a *Genera Plantarum* complete up to the time of publication of each of the supplementary parts.

Nomenclator Botanicus, seu Synonymia Plantarum Universalis, auctore E. T. Steudel, M.D. Ed. 2. 1840-41.

The completion of the above laborious undertaking points out in a peculiarly clear manner the great advance in the knowledge of species that has been attained during the last twenty years. In the former edition of this work (if such it ought to be called), which appeared in 1821, there are 3376 genera and 39,684 species recorded, whilst in the present edition, which has appeared at intervals during the years 1840 and 1841, the names of 6722 genera and 78,005 species are recorded; thus almost doubling the number of ascertained genera and also of species. It is probable that no previous period of similar extent would show any approach to so great a relative advance in our knowledge of the Phanerogamic plants, to which division the present work is confined.

We need scarcely say more concerning a work that must recommend itself so strongly by its mere usefulness to the notice of botanists, but may add that, as far as English publications are concerned, it appears to include nearly everything up to the conclusion of the 17th volume of the Linnæan Transactions.

Enchiridion Botanicum exhibens Classes et Ordines Plantarum; accedit Nomenclator Generum, auctore S. Endlicher, M.D. 1841.

The great work that we have already noticed by Prof. Endlicher had hardly been completed when he again comes before us with the present volume, which contains very full descriptions of the natural orders of plants; a complete list of the genera included under each; and numerous observations on their affinities, geography, qualities and use in medicine, for culinary purposes, and in the arts. We cannot too strongly recommend this book to all botanical students.

PROCEEDINGS OF LEARNED SOCIETIES.

LINNÆAN SOCIETY.

June 15, 1841.—The Bishop of Norwich, President, in the Chair.

Read, an Extract from a Letter from William Griffith, Esq., F.L.S., to R. H. Solly, Esq., F.L.S., dated Meerut, March 29, 1841.

Mr. Griffith states, that in its placentation, ovula, and protrusion of the embryonary sac, *Osyris* approaches *Santalum*, but presents in some particulars still more curious anomalies. First, the embryonary sac of *Osyris* seems to be produced beyond the base of the ovulum, passing down through the placenta and through the central tissue of the young fruit to its base. Secondly, the first steps of the growths consequent on fecundation take place outside the protruded sac, which may be found unaltered in the placenta of the ripe fruit. Whether the first cells, constituting the rudiments of the part in